

# CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER



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"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty"

OCTOBER, 1948

## POAU INVITES NATIONAL SUPPORT OF ITS HIGH PURPOSES TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

As POAU opens new headquarters, and the executive secretary girds himself for action, it seems advisable to refresh the memory of our members and of the public generally concerning the broad and high purposes that have brought this organization into being. The Manifesto states in part:

"The officers and the widely representative National Advisory Council of this organization desire to speak frankly and clearly to the American people concerning the purpose for which this undertaking has been launched. Its single and only purpose is to assure the maintenance of the American principle of separation of church and state upon which the Federal Constitution guarantees religious liberty to all the people and all churches of this Republic. PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED has been called into existence because this principle has been and is being violated, and threatened with further violation, in certain areas and by certain acts of both government and church. The plain meaning of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which forbids Congress to make any law "respecting an establishment of religion" has been obscured by specious propaganda \*\*\*\*. We shall endeavor (1) to revive in the public mind a clear understanding of the constitutional basis upon which religious liberty has guaranteed, (2) to redress the specific violations \*\*\*, and (3) to resist further encroachments upon this constitutional principle."

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## JANUARY 27, 1949 SET FOR FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

The first national convention of POAU will be held in Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C., on January 27, 1949.

Some of our members may be interested to know more about POAU's organizational structure. POAU was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia in January 1948. The articles provide for a board of trustees (7 to 15 members), and a National Advisory Committee (25 to 150 mem-

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DR. J. M. DAWSON - FEARLESS LEADER

A Tribute by Glenn L. Archer

It is a unique privilege as one of my first official acts to express tribute, praise and affection for the great leader whose mantle has fallen upon me.

Dr. J. M. Dawson, a distinguished minister, writer, and public relations executive of the Baptists of America, has devoted himself with courage and without pay to POAU from its inception. History will record him as one of the founders of this great crusade arousing Americans to safeguard their birthright of religious liberty. He, along with such patriotic stalwarts as Weaver, Morrison, Oxnam, Poteat, Newton, Dana, Mackay, DeGroot, Rogers, Williams, Yost, Taylor, and Todd, will be remembered as leaders of this significant organization devoted to keeping church separated from state.

The sterling character of the man is revealed by the fact that for thirty years and more he served in Waco, Texas, as the pastor of the Baylor (Baptist) University "Mother" Church.

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## SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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POAU believes we have staked the very existence of our country on the faith that complete separation between the church and state is best for religion and best for the state. It is our contention that no Catholic shall be compelled to pay taxes, any portion of which may be used to teach his son to become a Methodist or a Baptist. Nor shall any Methodist be compelled to pay taxes which may be used to train his son to become a Catholic. Nor should any citizen, with or without a creed, through his taxes be compelled to help indoctrinate his children in an alien belief. We hold that a Catholic, a Protestant, or a Jew may teach whatever faith he chooses in his church, home, or private school. Both reason and history show us that this concept of separation of church and state should be accepted without contention. Yet, violations abound in many states. POAU intends to bring legal action, if necessary, to redress such violations. In fact, POAU has employed Mr. E. Hilton Jackson, nationally known constitutional lawyer, to assist in the celebrated Dixon, New Mexico lawsuit where the Catholic church had taken over certain public schools. Such public schools are, in effect, parochial schools, teaching the Catholic religion at public expense. This diversion of public funds for private church purposes represents a special privilege to a given church in direct violation to a long established constitutional principle. Americans who cherish free tax supported schools and religious liberty for all must resist every attempt to divert public funds which serve sectarian ends. POAU gives a clarion call to all Americans who oppose ecclesiastical authoritarianism to join us in the battle for liberty.

## FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

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bers), the latter to meet annually, at which time directors and officers are elected. Those interested may upon writing receive, free of charge, a copy of the by-laws, and a list of the current members of the National Advisory Committee.

In the meantime, interested persons should set about the task of organizing state and local committees to be affiliated with POAU. Details telling how to go about this are available on request. One good way to start in your community, church or fraternal organization is to request a poster showing our seal and driving home our major goals. Since these objectives should be on every tongue, we repeat them here. In essence, they contain all that is summarized in the eight points on pages 10 and 11 of the POAU Manifesto. Urge all to join us to:

1. Mobilize public opinion for religious liberty.
2. End the ambassadorship to the Vatican.
3. Resist church encroachment on public funds.
4. Repeal state laws aiding church schools.

## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES GIVE VIEWS ON TAYLOR APPOINTMENT

New York (RNS) -- In response to a query by Dr. William B. Lippard, president of the Associated Church Press, three candidates for the presidency of the United States have given their views on the appointment of Myron C. Taylor as diplomatic representative to the Vatican.

From the White House, Dr. Lippard was informed by Charles G. Ross, secretary to President Truman, that Taylor's mission "would be terminated when peace is made." Ross said this will "remain the President's policy, and will be strictly adhered to so long as he is in office."

The reply from Gov. Thomas E. Dewey stated that "there are many questions of administrative policy which an incoming President cannot and should not decide until after he takes office."

Henry A. Wallace said he opposed the appointment of a personal ambassador to the Vatican. "It seems to me," he said, "that a country like the United States, which has taken a very special stand with regard to the separation of Church and State, should hardly give this kind of recognition to one Church without giving similar recognition to all Churches."

## NORTH DAKOTA BE VIGILANT

An aftermath of the North Dakota referendum on the wearing of religious garb by teachers in the public schools is the release of a statement by the Catholic bishops accepting the adverse verdict of the voters and asserting that they are satisfied for the nuns who formerly taught in religious garb to don civilian dress. This is a strange shifting of fronts. At first the bishops fought the proposal to forbid religious garb in a court action in which they were victorious, because there was no law in the state against the religious custom. Then when citizens proposing to cure this defect called for an election, the bishops and their adherents fought vigorously to retain their habit. Now upon being defeated they suavely declare that they are pleased with the result.

The important inquiries now are the following: Will these civilian-clad nuns refrain from sectarian teaching in the public schools? Will they qualify themselves for efficient teaching? Will they pay income tax on their salaries as do all other teachers?

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Pope Leo XIII in an encyclical deprecating the separation of Church and State in America, declared: "she (the Catholic Church) would bring forth more abundant fruits if, in addition to liberty, she enjoyed the favor of the laws and the patronage of the public authority." POAU opposes special privileges.

## DR. J. M. DAWSON

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More recently Dr. Dawson, as public relations executive of the American Baptist Convention, has kept a heavy schedule of speaking engagements, and contributed to magazines and periodicals. Mrs. Dawson is reputed to be one of the best speakers among American women. Both husband and wife have teamed to live a full life of loving Christian service.

Dr. Dawson's great contribution to POAU is a new book just off the press, entitled "Separate Church and State Now." This book, available at POAU headquarters, is a must for Americans interested in religious liberty.

It will be good news to our fast growing membership and to Dr. Dawson's other friends in all parts of the country that his services to POAU will continue as recording secretary of the Executive Committee.

And finally, Dr. Dawson, I pray that, like you, I may serve our faith by noble deeds.

### OBSERVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

President Truman has added his commendation of the observance of Religious Education Week September 26 - October 3. This 18th annual observance is sponsored in the United States and Canada by the International Council of Religious Education. The churches generally are expected to promote it.

While POAU did not participate in the Supreme Court case relating to religious instruction in the public schools, and has made no official pronouncements in favor of any plan of week-day instruction, it has nevertheless been foremost in proclaiming its concern for universal religious instruction. It pronouncedly approves any arrangement consistent with the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court which will afford such instruction, and believes that the Court's decision, the rising tide of secularism, and the threat of Communism, all combine to challenge the churches to a new conception of their duty to enlist and train the people of the nation in real knowledge. The positive united effort of the people along these lines, as never before exerted, may result in a new and hopeful advance in preserving the religious heritage of the nation.

### DR. E. STANLEY JONES

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, missionary-evangelist introduced his idea for a "United church of America" for the first time in Buffalo before a capacity crowd of 1,200 persons of more than a score of denominations. Explaining that the Roman Catholic Church would be welcomed into the union if it accepts the basic doctrine, Dr. Jones added: "If the Roman Catholics did accept that position, they would be profoundly modified. That's what we want."

## THE MEANING OF AMSTERDAM

At last the non-Roman Christian churches of the world have an organization - a piece of machinery - to lead and influence the world. This greatest church meeting since the Reformation has now ended after two weeks working and planning together. Every major branch of Christianity took part except Roman Catholicism and the Russian Orthodox Church. The major accomplishment was to put into organizational form the purposes of its 147 member churches from 44 countries. We are proud that Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, a vice-president of POAU, headed the planning committee and was elected one of the six co-presidents of the World Council. While POAU, in the words of its Manifesto, does not propose "to propagandize the Protestant faith or any other", it does speak of a "united Protestantism which is sinking its own differences \* \* \* to defend the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty against all attempts to subvert it." The words of Bishop Oxnam to the Conference apply equally to the cause of POAU when he says "the need for unity is urgent \* \* \* we cannot win the world \* \* \* with the tactics of guerilla warfare \* \* \* this calls for general staff, grand strategy, and army..." Another time, Bishop Oxnam said, "Before Amsterdam, cooperating between the churches was occasional. From Amsterdam onward, it will be continuous." In the sphere of our own objectives, we urge every member of POAU to follow in tireless action this message from Amsterdam.

### SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN REFORMATION DAY

It is gratifying to POAU that Reformation Day, Sunday, October 31, is to be kept more generally this year than ever before. Throughout the country the churches will unite in many cities and communities for an impressive service with a distinguished speaker. Thus in the National Capital Dr. John A. Mackay, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, and Vice-President of POAU, will be the speaker in a great mass meeting of the churches on Sunday evening, October 31. Other officers of our organization will speak in notable gatherings in other cities of the United States.

While it is not the purpose of POAU, as stated in the Manifesto, to propagate the Protestant faith or any other, nor to attack the faith of any church, it being set up solely for the purpose of maintaining the American Constitutional doctrine of separation between church and state, it nevertheless rejoices in the opportunity afforded by Reformation Day to emphasize those Protestant principles, such as an open Bible, democracy, and universal public education, as were inaugurated by the Protestant Reformation. It is felt that the emphasis upon these great elements in our nation's heritage will be vastly promoted by the Reformation Day observance.

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## PERTINENT COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Catholic Welfare Conference, in 1922, published a book "The State and the Church", by Fathers Ryan and Millar, in which it was asserted: "But constitutions can be changed and non-Catholic sects may decline to such a point that the political proscription of them may become feasible and expedient. What protection would they then have against a Catholic State?" POAU opposes control of government by any religious body.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joy Elmer Morgan, Secretary General of the Horace Mann League and Editor of the NEA Journal, has this to say in a recent letter about the Church and State Newsletter, "we believe our league members will be interested in this letter and may wish to write for copies \*\*\*\*\* Mr. Glenn L. Archer, formerly dean of Washburn Law School, Topeka, Kansas, became Executive Secretary of POAU on September 1. He is a strong man."

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Have you done your utmost for P.O.A.U.? Your non-profit, educational membership corporation needs funds - new members - public awakening through literature distribution. Probably you are doing something about all these things. We urge you to do more. Don't delay. Use the coupon and order form below to further strengthen the cause of P.O.A.U.

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- (1) Fill out on the coupon the items desired from the check list by letter indicia (a - b - c, etc.)
- Check the appropriate square for the following:
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50¢ per doz. \$4.00 per 100

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e. Oxnam Reply to Cushing.

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Washington, D. C.

Hearings in the suit brought by Protestants to bar garbed Roman Catholic nuns and Priests from teaching in New Mexico public schools are now under way. All the sisters testifying so far freely admitted that the Catholic catechism is taught in the public schools, but said the instruction is given "before or after" regular school hours. Has this been true prior to the filing of charges in this case?

Harry L. Bigbee, attorney for the Protestant plaintiffs explored the question of the nun-teachers first allegiance. Sister Mary Oda, school principal in Cubero, apparently evaded a direct answer when she said she was obligated to obey the county superintendent in school matters, and to obey her superiors in religious matters.

It has already been established that several Catholic religious orders receive lump-payments for teaching services given by their members.

Thirty schools in 11 counties are involved in this court action, brought by 28 plaintiffs against over 200 defendants. Funds you give POAU are helping in this critical legal battle.

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The Nation was banned from public schools of New York City because the Blanshard articles were deemed not fit reading for Roman Catholic children in the public schools.

Miss Kirchwey, editor of The Nation, states the articles did not criticize the religious teachings, but dealt only with "attitudes and practices of the Roman Catholic church concerning matters of the broadest public interest, such as medical ethics, marriage and divorce, birth control, education, Fascism, democracy, science and superstition." She warned, "When the day comes on which the attitude of any church on these matters ceases to be a fit subject for free discussion in America, then we shall know that liberty has departed from this land and Fascism has arrived." POAU concurs.

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Pope Pius XI in his encyclical on education, categorically declared: "In the first place, education belongs preeminently to the (Catholic) Church for two supernatural reasons... As for the scope of the Church's educative mission, it extends over all peoples without any limitation, according to Christ's command: "Teach ye all nations." Nor is there a civil power which can oppose or prevent it... And the Church has been able to do so much because her educative mission extends also to the non-faithful..." POAU favors public schools at public expense; and private schools at private expense.

POAU stands against all bigotry and religious hatred. It insists that the only way by which good will and cooperation among the various religious bodies can be secured is by faithful observance of separation of church and state.